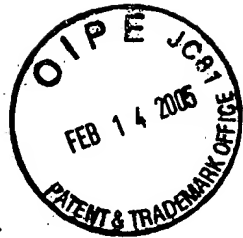


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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCESSING
GROUP ART UNIT: 1744

Attorney Docket :
033082 M 102

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
)
 Keizo HIROSE et al.)
)
 Serial No.: 09/960,413) Group Art Unit: 1744
)
 Filed: September 24, 2001) Examiner: Shay L Balsis

For : SUBSTRATE CLEANING TOOL AND SUBSTRATE CLEANING APPARATUS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2004 is due February 15, 2005.

Therefore, please accept this Amendment as timely filed.

For the purpose of placing the above-captioned application in immediate condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2004, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows.